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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1946.

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NORTHWICH;

W. HOBSON & SON, PRINTERS.



Northwich Urban District Council.

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# Northwich Urban District Council.

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## Health Report for 1946.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich  
Urban District Council.

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters  
affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1946.

### Section A.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,137 acres
Population	—	Registrar	General's	latest			
estimate of	population	...	...	...			19,150
Number of inhabited houses	(end of 1946)	...					5,545
Rateable value	(March 1947)	...	...	...			£125,454
Sum represented by a penny rate	(1946/47						
Estimated)	...	...	...	...			£491



The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate.....	376	189	187	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population... 21·14
	{ Illegitimate ...	29	15	14	
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate ...	18	9	9	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 42·55
	{ Illegitimate...	—	—	—	
Deaths...	... ..	248	147	101	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... 12·95

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes ...	—	—
Total ... ..	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	46·91
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	42·55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	103·44
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	38
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	3

The following table compares the main statistics for 1946 with the years 1939 — 1945:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Population ..	19,270	18,730	18,690	18,290	18,130	18,070	18,130	19,150
Birth Rate ..	14·16	14·89	15·14	15·14	18·42	17·43	19·02	21·14
Death Rate ..	12·76	14·48	11·28	11·31	12·18	14·27	13·67	12·95
Infant Death Rate	54·54	73·68	48·44	57·76	47·90	41·26	60·86	46·91
No. of Deaths from Cancer ..	39	32	28	33	32	40	32	38
No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis	10	16	13	9	7	13	8	13

### CAUSES OF DEATH—1946.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria... ..	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	7	5	12
7. Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	1	—	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	—	I	1
9. Influenza ... ..	2	2	4
10. Measles .. ..	—	—	—
11. Ac. Polio-myel : and Polio-enceph : ... ..	—	—	—
12. Ac. : inf : enceph : ... ..	—	—	—
13. Cancer of B : cav : & oesoph (M) uterus (F) ... ..	1 1	1 1	2 2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	5	4	9
15. Cancer of Breast ... ..	1	5	6
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..	15	6	21
17. Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
18. Intra-cran : vasc : lesions ... ..	12	12	24
19. Heart Diseases ... ..	39	27	66
20. Other circulatory diseases ... ..	5	2	7
21. Bronchitis ... ..	18	4	22
22. Pneumonia : ... ..	3	2	5
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	5	2	7
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	i	—	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	2	1	3
26. Appendicitis ... ..	1	—	1
27. Other digestive diseases... ..	2	3	5
28. Nephritis ... ..	4	3	7
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth ... ..	—	2	2
32. Congenital debility and Malformations ... ..	7	3	10
33. Suicide ... ..	1	2	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	5	1	6
35. Other Violent Causes ... ..	1	1	2
36. All other Causes ... ..	9	10	19
	147	101	248

## Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR  
THE AREA.

## (A) Provided by the District Council.

## (1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared with the Winsford and Middlewich Urban District & Northwich Rural District & with the Northwich & Dis- trict Joint Hospital Board).
Sister I. D. Rogerson	Trained Nurse (Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).	-do-
Clerical Staff	2 persons (whole-time).	-do-
F. Armitage, M.S.I.A. & Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Other Foods.	Whole-time Senior San- itary Inspector.	(Northwich Urban Dis- trict Council only).
F. Johnson, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Other Foods.	Whole-time Additional Sanitary Inspector	do.
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time).	-do-

## (2) Laboratory Facilities.

The arrangements made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory and with the County Analyst proved adequate during the year for the examination of water, milk and ice-cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions.



### (3) Ambulance Facilities.

At the beginning of the year the Northwich Urban Service was extended to cover the Middlewich Urban Area. Later with the incorporation of the Northwich Rural Ambulance into the Urban Service, details of a similar extension to the Rural Area were worked out under an Ambulance Committee to which representatives of the Northwich Rural and Middlewich Urban Councils were appointed. In view of these extensions, a third full-time Ambulance Driver was appointed in June, 1946. Because of the heavy calls on the vehicles and the big mileages covered, consideration was given at the end of 1946 to the acquisition of an additional first-line Ambulance. The mileage covered during 1946 by the 3 vehicles in the Service was 17,092 miles, involving the removal of 511 patients.

### (4) Davenham Isolation Hospital.

The Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Davenham, Nr. Northwich, served adequately the needs of the District Council during the year and admitted 24 Northwich Urban patients during 1946.

(5) Details of the other Health Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, Diphtheria Immunisation, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Urban Council are recorded later in this report.

## (B) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Vaccination, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases. County Maternity Services are provided in neighbouring Hospitals, e.g., West Park, Clatterbridge, Chester City Hospital and County Maternity Homes.

## Section C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The District is particularly fortunate in having an abundant supply of wholesome water and no instance of shortage or lack of pressure has been experienced. Jointly with the Northwich R.D.C. the supply into the surrounding Districts too has been satisfactorily maintained.



At the time of writing, July 1947, energetic steps are being taken to reduce still further the number of these insanitary fittings.

**Public Cleansing.** The routine work of refuse and salvage collection proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

The total amount of salvage and scrap disposed of during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1946, is set out herewith:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper only	136	4	2	867	18	7
Scrap, other than waste paper	145	12	3	369	14	0
	281	16	3	1,237	12	7

**Recreational and Open Spaces.** The following Schemes have been decided upon by the Council during 1946 (1) Young Children's Playgrounds fully equipped at the following sites — Ann Street, Manchester Road, Dean Street, Middlewich Road, Queen Street, London Road, and Hartford Hill, Darwin Street. All these sites have been fenced and the equipment purchased, and only the hard weather delayed the erection of equipment. (2) Castle Slopes and Park entrance from Castle Street. Preliminary work has been carried out on Castle Slopes and tenders are being sought for the finished landscape work.

**Floods.** During the month of February, 1946, extensive flooding of the lower parts of the Town occurred involving some 300 dwellings and a large number of business premises. Possibly as a result of the thorough cleansing and disinfection of the properties involved, in the which the Council had the valuable assistance of the Sanitary Inspectors of Northwich Rural District, Winsford and Middlewich Urban Districts, no epidemic disease, other than one case of Dysentery, arose amongst the residents of the area affected.

Another outcome of the flooding was the salvage of the following foodstuffs, which were dealt with by the Ministry of Food Officials:—

3½ tons Cereals	114 lbs. Lard	60 lbs. Margarine
4 cwts. Tea	5 cwts. Sugar	76 lbs. Bacon
259 lbs. Cheese	131 lbs. Soap	56 lbs. Butter

**Canal Boats.** Three new boats were built and launched in Northwich during the year and certificates of registration have been issued to the owners under the Public Health Act, 1936.



**Offensive Trades.** There are no additions to the 6 offensive trades in the district and no action has been found necessary.

**Destruction of Rats and Mice.** During the year 1946, eight renewals of contracts for the destruction of rats and mice were issued to private property owners, making a total amount of £38.

10 minor infestations were satisfactorily treated in addition to the Council's tips, sewers and sewage outfall works.

**Common Lodging Houses.** There is no change to record regarding the two licenced Common Lodging Houses in the district.

**Licenced Camping Sites.** No licences were issued for camping sites in the Northwich Urban District during the year 1946.

**Licences to Slaughter Animals.** During the year 7 new licences were issued, the total number now in operation is 8.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

(Based on a Statement made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Nature of Inspections made				Num- ber.	Number of Notices served		Result of Services of Notices.			
					Statu- tory.	Infor- mal.	Notice compli- ed with	Remai- ning in hand.	Prosecutions.	
									Institu- ted.	Pend- ing.
1.	Dwelling Houses, (general inspection)	..	..	596	15	142	118	39	..	..
2.	Cellar Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.	Back-to-Back Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4.	Tents' Vans, Sheds, etc.	..	..	80	..	14	14	..	..	..
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	..
6.	Pail Closets	..	..	424	..	37	37	..	..	..
7.	Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8.	House Drainage	..	..	65	3	33	36	..	..	..
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, etc.	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	..
10.	Offensive Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.	Keeping of Animals	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
12.	Offensive Trades	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	"      (Private)	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Other Places where food is produced or sold	..	..	163	..	3	2	1	..	..
14.	Piggeries	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
15.	(a) Dairies	..	..	32	..	1	1	..	..	..
	(b) Cowsheds	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	..
	(c) Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16.	(a) Factories	..	..	14	..	1	1	..	..	..
	(b) Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(d) Outworkers' Premises	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
17.	Bakehouses (Overground)	..	..	56	..	4	4	..	..	..
	"      (Underground)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18.	Common Lodging Houses	..	..	8	..	1	1	..	..	..
19.	Houses let in Lodgings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20.	Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21.	Canal Boats	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
22.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	..	..	177	..	..	..	..	..	..
23.	Miscellaneous	..	..	286	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals				1978	19	239	216	42	..	..



## Section D.

### HOUSING.

The number of houses visited during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspectors was 596 and such urgent repairs as were found to be necessary were carried out.

During 1946, 74 houses in the Whalley Road — York Place area were “represented” as unfit and 26 of them were vacated and demolition commenced.

In addition two other properties were vacated, namely, 11, Post Office Place and Dunkirk Cottage, after being dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act. The demolition of both dwellings, however, has been temporarily suspended.

So that Members could have a fair picture of the re-housing needs for slum clearance purposes, a schedule setting out details of some 250 sub-standard dwellings in the area was submitted at the end of 1946 and I hope to see some, at least, of the families occupying these scheduled houses offered alternative accommodation on the new Housing Estate in the Rudheath — Shurlach area.

The 1946 provision of new houses in the area reads as follows:—

(a) **By Local Authority.**

(1) Permanent — 31 completed and tenanted.

43 in course of erection.

(2) Temporary Bungalows — 50 completed and tenanted.

(b) **By Private Enterprise.**

One in course of erection.

In addition, 136 houses and 6 shops, for which the preliminary work on the road, gas and water services had already commenced during 1946, are to be sited in the Rudheath — Shurlach area, and negotiations for the purchase of Hartford Manor, House and adjoining land for building purposes have commenced.

## Section E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) Milk Supply.

During the year 70 samples of milk, being retailed in the area, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

- (1) **For the presence of living Tubercle Bacilli.** — These organisms were found in 1 out of the 25 samples submitted.

This positive result was obtained in an ordinary raw milk and the presence of living Tubercle Bacilli in this sample was fully investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture Officials, but the offending animal was apparently no longer in the herd and so none was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

- (2) **For Cleanliness Tests.** — Of the 45 samples submitted for these tests:—

17 samples of Pasteurised Milk were satisfactory

6	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	part satisfactory
2	,,	,,	T.T. (Past)	,,	,,	satisfactory
2	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	part satisfactory
10	,,	,,	Ungraded	,,	,,	satisfactory
3	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	part satisfactory
1	,,	,,	,,	,,	was	unsatisfactory
1	,,	,,	Accredited	,,	,,	part satisfactory
3	,,	,,	Tuberculin-Tested Milk	were part satisfactory		

#### School Milk Supplies.

During the year the pasteurised milk being supplied by three local retailers to the Schools was investigated very thoroughly and the reports on 13 samples showed that only five of these were wholly satisfactory and complied with the prescribed standards of milk for this grade. Action by the Council initiated the re-arrangement and improvement in the supplies whereby at the end of the year all the school children were receiving a clean and properly heat-treated supply.

**Milk (Special Designations) Order.**

The total number of licences issued for the year under this Order was as follows:—

Licence to pasteurise milk	...	...	...	...	1
Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"					
milk bottled on the premises	...	...	...	...	1
Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"					
milk not bottled on the premises	...	...	...	...	5
Licence to use the designation "Pasteurised"				...	1
Supplementary licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					10
					—

- (b) **Meat.** Since the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Northwich closed on the 31st October, 1941, no slaughtering has taken place in the district.

The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during 1946:—

Meat, milk, fish, etc.	755	tins	Dried Peaches	3½	lbs.
Dates	70	lbs.	Prunes	4½	lbs.
Beetroots	10	cwts.	Semolina	17	pkts.
Beef	740¾	lbs.	Oatmeal	14	lbs.
Fish	7	stone	Rabbits	300	lbs.
Kippers	67	lbs.	Crumpets	9	doz.
Eggs	50		Meat Pies	11	
Cheese Trimmings	12	lbs.	Sweets	41	pkts.
Cheese imported	10	lb. tin	Toffee	7½	lbs.

One notification of swine fever was received during the year, with the exception of one, all the pigs died and were buried in a field adjoining the sty. The premises and surroundings were thoroughly disinfected.

- (c) **Other Foods.** The inspection, and registration where called for, of premises in which other foods, e.g. prepared meats, fried fish, etc. are prepared, have been conscientiously carried out during the year.

In particular the powers the Council possess under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 in relation to the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream were fully exercised as suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 183/46.

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

The position at the end of December, 1946 was as follows:—

Registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream	...	12
Registered premises for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	... ..	3
Registered premises for the frying of fish	... ..	20
Registered premises for the manufacture and sale of prepared meats, etc.	... ..	21

During 1946 there were 4 cancellations of registration due to discontinuance of business.

**Food and Ice Cream Sampling during 1946.** 2 samples of Ice Cream and 1 of tinned Salmon were submitted for bacteriological examination. When compared with the old bacteriological standards for a Grade A milk, one of the Ice Cream samples was satisfactory, and the other not satisfactory — in this case the methods of manufacture were investigated and towards the end of the year proposals for a new plant and building were put in hand. The sample of tinned Salmon was also reported upon satisfactorily.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of samples obtained in the Northwich Urban District during the year 1946:—

Bicarb. of Soda	1	Glauber Salts	1
Brawn	1	Glycerine	1
Bun Flour	1	Iodine (Tinc.)	2
Butter	2	Lard	1
Castor Oil	3	Margarine	2
Cheese	2	Milk	36
Chocolate Cup	1	Sauce	2
Cocoa	1	Semolina	1
Coffee	1	Sugar	2
Cooking Fat	1	Zinc. Ointment	1

Total — 63

All the above samples complied with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. There were no convictions.



## Section F.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases generally during 1946 was low and calls for no special comment. No case of Diphtheria occurred in the Urban Area during 1946 and this was most probably the direct outcome of the Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than  
Tuberculosis) during the year 1946.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever ... ..	6	6	—
Pneumonia ... ..	4	—	—
Measles ... ..	10	1	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	8	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	3	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	2	2	—
Para-Typhoid Fever ... ..	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1	—

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for.	Number submitted	Result.	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli ... ..	30	—	30
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	4	1	3
Hæmolytic Streptococci ... ..	3	—	3
Fæces ... ..	4	1	3
Blood Culture... ..	1	—	1



**(2) TUBERCULOSIS.**

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
15-25 „ ...	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
25-35 „ ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 „ ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-55 „ ...	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
TOTALS ...	6	3	1	1	7	5	1	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
145	160	160	165	175	185	182	176

49 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 2 of which were reported on as positive.

**(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

During 1941 — 1946 the progress made in the Urban Area under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which was commenced in 1941 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee, can be gathered from the following figures:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Percentage of Children treated between 0-4 years of age inclusive... ..	25·9%	35·7%	41·5%	44·8%	42·5%	44·3%
Percentage of Children treated between 5-14 years of age inclusive ... ..	83·4%	92·2%	78·1%	78·5%	79·8%	80·6%

The total number of children known definitely to have received protective treatment in the Northwich Urban area up to December, 1946 was 3,883, to which may be added an estimate of 150 children dealt with privately through their own Doctors. In addition, 317 children have received 'booster' injections.

A certain number of children, whose parents prefer it, receive the treatment privately through their own Doctors, to whom the Ministry of Health's free supply of prophylactics is made available for this purpose. I have no exact knowledge of the numbers of all the children dealt with in this way so the percentages recorded above do not now include them.

#### (4) **SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.**

The arrangements made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1946.

The steady reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following:

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases of Scabies	684	376	222	157	127
Cases of Pediculosis	46	36	15	7	8
Total	730	412	237	164	135
Number of households involved	212	156	116	88	75

#### (5) **DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

The disinfection of 55 homes was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Vermin	...	...	...	...	26 houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	...	...	...	...	8 ,,
For Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	21 ,,

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1947.









